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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 138457
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 NSC-05 AID-05 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN:DI
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P:TMILLER
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----------037252 011503Z /46
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 138457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT:LOCAL SETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN
THAILAND

REF: (A) BANGKOK 13482; (B) STATE137236

1. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT HEAVY PUBLICITY GIVEN
OFFER OF 1-2 MILLION DOLLARS TO ASSIST RTG LONG RANGE
PLANNING FOR REFUGEE PROBLEM, INCLUDING LOCAL RESETTLEMENT
STRUCK SENSITIVE THAI NERVE. INTENT, HOWEVER, WAS TO BE
HELPFUL TO RTG AND TO RESPOND TO ANY RTG DESIRES AND
INITIATIVES IN THIS AREA. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PRECONCEP-
TIONS ABOUT HOW RTG SHOULD PROCEED AND AGREE THAT, WHILE
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LISTING OF POSSIBILITIES BY EMBASSY IS GENERALLY SIMILAR
TO OUR OWN THINKING, PROGRAM MUST BE DESIGNED BY RTG.

2. WE ARE VERY MUCH CONSCIOUS OF NEED TO KEEP UNHCR IN
THE PICTURE ON THIS PROGRAM AND WILL BE CONSULTING WITH
HCR IN GENEVA SHORTLY. UNQUESTIONABLY, A VERY SUBSTANTIAL
PORTION OF THE FUNDING FOR SUCH A MAJOR RESETTLEMENT

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PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM OTHER DONORS THAN THE USG. THERE ARE OBVIOUS OPPORTUNITIES AND WE BELIEVE SEVERAL OTHER GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT

CONTRIBUTIONS. IT IS PREMATURE, HOWEVER, TO LAUNCH ANY MAJOR EFFORT TO SECURE CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES FOR THIS PURPOSE SINCE NEITHER WE NOR RTG HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF WHERE THE RTG IS GOING ON THIS MATTER OR WHAT FUNDS OR TIMING WOULD BE INVOLVED. WHEN RTG HAS CLARIFIED ITS THINKING--AND OUR OFFER WAS DESIGNED TO HELP ACCOMPLISH THIS--WE WILL BE IN POSITION TO SEEK BROAD SUPPORT.

3. GIVEN CONTINUED REFUGEE FLOW FROM LAOS AND CAMBODIA, ANY CALCULATIONS BY THE THAI THAT THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLE-MENT, INCLUDING TO THE UNITED STATES, WILL REDUCE THE TOTAL INDOCHINESE REFUGEE POPULATION TO 20,000 SEEMS CLEARLY UNLIKELY AND WE SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE IT. WE CERTAINLY DO NOT WANT THAT FIGURE TO BE REACHED BY A COMBINATION OF THIRD COUNTRY RESETTLEMENT AND A REJECTION OF ANY NEW ARRIVALS BY THE RTG. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD SEEM FRUITLESS TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE RTG TO TAKE A PUBLIC POSITION THAT THEY WILL PERMANENTLY RESETTLE A MUCH LARGER NUMBER SUCH AS 100,000 REFUGEES. IF THEY WILL BEGIN WITH A SMALLER NUMBER AND WE CAN ASSIST THEM, WE ARE PAREPARED TO DO SO.

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4. DURING LOWMAN'S VISIT, HE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS IN A LOW KEY MANNER. VANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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